

From our Womens yearly.

Meeting held at York the 6th and 7th
dayes of the 5th. Month 1698.

33

DEAR Sisters, we being met together in the
fear of the Lord, to wait upon him for
his Wisdome, and Counsell to guide and
direct us in the Managing of Truth's Affairs: It
hath pleased him to Accompany us with his Living
presence, and hath been as an open Fountain to us,
and the Streams of his Love hath run from Vessell,
to Vessell, Living Praises to him for ever: And
many Living Testimonies have been born amongst
us, and we have Received in Writing, Testimonies
from most of our Womens, Monthly Meetings of
the Continuance of their Care for the Honour of
Truth, to our Satisfaction, Understanding thereby,
that Truth prospers, especially amongst our young
Women in divers Parts, of this County. And
truly Friends, it hath been our Comfort, to see so
great an Appearance of them here, at this meeting,
and to feel the Streams of Love and Life, that
Flowed forth through them: And though but young
in years some of them, yet for Gravity and weight
of Concern in Truth, might seem to be as
Mothers

Mothers in *Israell*. And this good account we have to give you, of the Goodness of the Lord unto us, in this our Solemn Assembly.

And we yet have something further to Communicate to our severall Womens Meetings: Though we have no new thing to write unto you; for you have Received divers Testimonies from this meeting, wherein we have Testified against all Super-fluity, in Meats, Drinkes, and Apparell, and all other things, whereby Truth came to Suffer, and we desire that onely might be Practised, which is comely decent, and of good Report, and an honour to Truth; And as it hath been, it still is our great care, that this weighty worke may be carried on, and managed in the Love of God, and Spirit of Meekness; and not in extreams which tends to Strife: but in the Counsell and Wisdom of God, with a tender care over the Unity of Friends, which in the days of Old was highly Esteem'd, and in our day of great Value; Therefore let us take the good advice left upon Record, as much as in us lies, live Peaceably with all; and do unto all, as we would they should do unto us. And this will preserve Love one to another, and you that are Mothers of Children, and Rulers of Families, be
good

good Examples to your Children and Servants in all things, Discouraging the Evill, and Encouraging the good. And in the Love of God, and Authority of Truth rule over them, for if Children Rule over Parents, it is not comely, nor of good Report, and will not tend to Truth's honour, their good, nor Parents Comfort. Therefore, Friends, we desire your Care in this Matter. And you that are Children of Believing parents, and come to Meetings, and yet Remain, proud, heady and unsubject to Parents: Here is a word of Counsell in our hearts to you, though we would not be tedious, nor repeat things over, and over? But referre you to our former Testimonies, and to scripture Record, wherein you may find, what hath been the portion threatned unto such in all Ages, except they repent. And the Lord is the same in this our day: Therefore it is our Counsell to you; Slight not the day of your Visitation, nor be deceived, God will not be mocked, such as you sow, such you must reap. Therefore meet the Lord in the way of his Judgments, which is allways, mixt with mercy: For he wills not the Death of Sinners, but that they might Repent and Live. Therefore do not grieve his good Spirit, and proyoke him dayly with

your Untruth like Practices. Who will render to every one according to their works. Tribulation and wo to the workers of Iniquity: But Joy and Peace to the upright in heart.

And you that are young and Tender, and have been bowed under the mighty hand of the Lord, and mourned in Secret for want of him, whom your Soules Loved, you are near, and dear to us. You who have known the Lord as Refiners-Fire, and Fullers-Sope: And he hath led, you thorow many Tryalls, and great Tribulations, that he might wash you, and make you of that Number, which have their harps in their hands; And as his Redeemed to have the Songs of Deliverance, and high Praises in your mouths. The Lord hath given you Mirth for Mourning, and Beauty for Ashes, the Oyle of Joy and Gladness, for the Spirit of Heaviness; and though you may yet meet with Pinching Tryalls, for the Tryall of your Faith, and Proving of your Patience? You have your Rock and Refuge, and strong Tower to Fly unto, which the Righteous fled unto in all Ages, and was safe: You are they, whom the Lord is concerning in his weighty work in your day, therefore see to it, for many of our Ancient and Honourable
 Women

Women are gone to their Rest, where they are receiving their Rewards of Peace and Joy, from the Lord for their Labour, and Praising him for evermore.

It is matter of Comfort to us who are yet behind, to see, and feel a young Generation, whom the Lord will make Instruments to carry on his Work, when we shall be dissolved and gone hence, and be no more seen with Mortall eyes.

Therefore, dear hearts, let us both young and Old keep near the Lord, little and Low before him, and in his Pure fear, keep up our Womens Meetings: And let no slackness nor backwardness appear to the Discouraging of any, but stir up one another to diligence in keeping up week-days, and Monthly Meetings: and we also desire that two faithfull Women be chosen of every Particular Meeting belonging the Monthly Meeting to take care to inspect into things Relating to Truths Affairs: That a true Account may be given to the Generall Monthly meeting: And these women Chosen according as they see freedom with consent, and Advice of the Monthly meeting to chuse other two faithfull Women, that so each Member may Officiate its Place in the body, and Serve one another

another in Love: It is also desired, that the next Yearly Meeting be attended with two faithfull Women from every Monthly Meeting, and bring in their Testimonies, as formerly.

Signed on the behalf of the Meeting.

By	Grace Hemsley,	Jane Sidgewick,
	Katharina Winn,	Elizabeth Menfon,
	Judith Boulbie,	Deborah Winn,
	Margret Breckon,	Sarah Langstafe,
	Mary White,	Rebecka Turner,
	Katharin Ratcliffe,	Mary Collier.

Post Script.

FRiends and Sisters, we are one with our brethren in this great and weighty work of Reformation; for Sion is to dwell alone, and not to be Numbred with the Nations. Therefore Friends and Sisters, in the Bowells of Eternall Compassion which we feel in our hearts at this time Rolling towards you, we warn you all to bow before the mighty Power of God. You have all Received a Measure of Gods Spirit to profit withall: *Oh what will you do with it Will you grieve it, and quench it, and not suffer it to Rule in your hearts? If you will not let it Rule and Reign and have Dominion in your Mortall Bodies, that you may Glorifie God in your day, Age and Generation: The God of Heaven will bow you by his Righteous Judgments.* O you Convinced ones, if you will not strip yourselves of all the needless Superfluities, that the world lives in; the Lord God will strip you: *For the earth is near to be Reaped, and the Angel is ready to put in his Sharp Sickle.* And now the Lord God is expecting a thorow Reformation in the Camp of Israel. And therefore dear Friends and Sisters, all up, and be doing, and put your hands to the worke, and your Shoulders to the Burden, that so you may all get the Side-Posts of your Houses Sprinkled with the Blood of the Immaculate Lambe, Christ Jesus. No more but our Dear Love.

FAREWELL.